



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

April 22, 2014

Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics Update

The Indiana Education Round Table recommended the Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics to be approved by the State Board of Education on April 28, 2014. The Education Round Table also recommended that the State Board of Education adopt a process for the Department and staff from CECI to develop exemplary standards resource guides. Please see the Department's [attached](#) press release.

Standards Implementation survey...

The Indiana Department of Education is preparing implementation guidance and supports for schools. It is our goal to provide the education community with support opportunities and materials that are most meaningful. To inform this work, ***we are seeking your input through a brief survey***, found [here](#). To date, we have had over 800 responses! The results of this survey will provide direction to the Indiana Department of Education regarding your priority needs during this transition to the proposed standards. We would ask that you **share this survey link with your teachers and ask them to join you** in providing us with feedback on how we can best support local efforts.

After the standards have been approved and implementation has begun, the IDOE will again reach out to you regarding your local plans and further needs for implementation.

Thank you to all of the Indiana educators that took part in this process to evaluate the Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. And, thank you in advance for your participation in this survey.

ISTEP online testing...

The Department is aware of the outages that Oklahoma experienced yesterday and we are in the process of gathering information about exactly what happened. In addition, our technology and assessment teams are also reaching out to Oklahoma and working with CTB to ensure that CTB is ready when ISTEP starts next week. Finally, our assessment team is working with local schools to ensure that their networks are ready for testing and CTB has engineers available for on-site support.

There are several important memoranda included below. Please take note and share as needed.

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Memorandum

Invitation to join cadre of AdvanceED Review Teams

The Indiana Department of Education and AdvanceED are creating a cadre of distinguished school and system practitioners to support and help lead the Diagnostic Review process in several Indiana schools and districts during September 2014. This cadre of school and system educators will serve alongside IDOE and AdvanceED staff to examine school/system data, leadership, learning conditions,

as well as policies, practices, curriculum, and culture that promote student learning.

By using current practitioners to serve in the role of Diagnostic Review Evaluators, we will help build state-wide leadership capacity to accelerate student performance, enhance school and system effectiveness, and realize our common strategic goals of college and career readiness for every student.

Diagnostic Review Evaluators will be asked to:

- Participate in one day (6 hours) of training led by AdvancED staff
 - Training Dates:
 - NW IN, July 28, 2014 (location to be determined)
 - Indianapolis, July 17, 2014 (location to be determined)
 - NE IN, August 5, 2014 (location to be determined)
 - All travel expenses for the training, including meals, mileage and lodging, will be reimbursed
 - Additional on-line training (1-2 hours)
- Participate in all aspects of at least one Diagnostic Review including:
 - Two virtual team meetings (approximately one hour each) prior to the on-site review
 - Examination of documents, diagnostics, etc. in preparation for the on-site review
 - Collaboration with other team members to determine findings and communicate results through a written report
- Diagnostic Reviews are three day on-site visits (typically Sunday evening through Wednesday afternoon)
 - Participants on a Diagnostic Review Team will earn PGPs
 - 2014 Diagnostic Reviews are scheduled for September
 - All travel expenses for the Diagnostic Reviews will be reimbursed

To apply for Diagnostic Review Evaluator, complete the [attached application](#) and email it to lcraig@advanc-ed.org no later than May 20, 2014. For assistance, contact Lori Craig in the AdvancED Indiana Office at 800-468-7405.

MEMORANDUM: [McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant](#) -- All Indiana school corporations are invited to submit an application for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant. Funds are available to school corporations on a competitive basis for programs that will facilitate the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children and youth in school. The application and technical information are located on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program [website](#). An informational webinar will be presented on April 28, 2014, 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Completed applications must be received by June 20, 2014. For additional information please contact: Linda Rusthoven, McKinney-Vento Grant Specialist at 317-233-3047 or rusthov@doe.in.gov.

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Department of Education [released](#) graduation rate data today for the 2012-2013 school year. The data show that the state's non-waiver graduation rate was 81.72%, up from 80.46% in 2012. The overall graduation rate for all schools was 88.6%, virtually unchanged from the prior year's rate of 88.7%. Non-waiver data is important for federal reporting requirements, as well as providing a more full picture of the number of students that are successfully passing their end of course assessments. In addition IDOE released other data, including graduation rate by school and school corporation, public and non-public schools, as well as graduation rate by race and ethnicity. A copy of the graduation rate data can be found [here](#).

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Department of Education [released](#) passage data for the Spring 2014 administration of the IREAD 3 assessment today. Statewide, the passage rate was 85.58%, up from 85.28% for the same period last year. School and corporation level data will be available later this month. Results from previous spring administrations of the assessment are below:

Year	Passing Percentage
2011	80.07
2012	84.87
2013	85.28
2014	85.58

MEMORANDUM: The Indiana Migrant Education Program (IMEP) provides supplemental education and support services to eligible children through national funding. The purpose of the program is to ensure that all migrant students reach the same academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma or equivalent certification. In order to be compliant with federal regulations, the Indiana Migrant Education Program [Work Survey](#) must be administered to all students enrolled in Indiana school corporations each year to ensure proper identification of eligible students. The work survey should be collected from all students currently enrolled in school districts that do not have a work survey on file and administered to all newly enrolled students. Moving forward, the work survey must be completed during registration every year for all students and kept on file. Please contact the Office of English Learning and Migrant Education at 317-232-0558 or rdavidson@doe.in.gov for more information.

MEMORANDUM: The Hoosier Family of Readers is an initiative to build a culture of readers in the state of Indiana. But in order to read, kids need books! That's why the Hoosier Family of Readers is excited to [partner](#) with nonprofit First Book to help you and your Family of Readers access **brand new, free and low-cost books**. [First Book](#) is a nonprofit social enterprise that distributes tens of millions of new books and educational resources every year to schools serving children in need nationwide. For more information contact the First Book Help Team at (800) READ-NOW or help@firstbook.org.

CONGRATULATIONS: Siemens STEM Academy recently [announced](#) the 2014 STAR teachers. There Indiana Math and Science teachers are among only 40 teachers nationwide selected to participate in the Siemens Teachers as Researchers (STARs) program during the summer of 2014. These educators will work with the nation's top scientists on short-term projects focused on the most current and innovative science research happening today at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. Here is a [link](#) to their complete bio's. The bio's are correct but the photo's are not.

- Cory Howard, Bunker Hill - Maconaquah Middle School
- Steven Lewer, Indianapolis - Lutheran High School
- Zachary Blackwood, Walton - Lewis Cass Junior Senior High School

CONGRATULATIONS: Dr. Blachly, a math teacher at Arsenal Technical High School, was [informed](#) last week through email that four of his students have been selected as one of six finalist teams in the Moody's Foundation Mega Math Challenge. They were [selected](#) out of 1,152 papers submitted nationwide. The students have been invited to New York to present their math solution to the panelist who will choose the final winners. Prizes (Scholarships) range from \$2,500.00 to \$20,000.00.

CONGRATULATIONS: Two Indiana schools have been named 2014 US Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools! Carmel High School (Carmel) and St. Thomas Aquinas School (Indianapolis) [were honored](#) for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways.

Information From Other Agencies

The Indiana Association of School Principals will hold their annual Aspiring Principals Conference on April 27-28 at the Valle Vista Conference Center in Greenwood. This conference is a great opportunity for those just starting their program or for those that are completing their degree. This 2 day experience provides an opportunity for future building leaders to learn from veteran principals, and to experience a mock administrative interview. Plus, the registration fee also includes an IASP Aspiring Principals membership for the 2014-15 school year. The [registration form](#) is available and also includes the agenda for the day. Those wishing to register can send in the registration form, or register [online](#).

2014 Map the Meal Gap Study Uncovers Indiana Food Insecurity Rates

Feeding Indiana's Hungry [announced](#) that the annual Map the Meal Gap results show that food insecurity continues to remain high in Indiana. According to the newly released data, 15.7 percent of Hoosiers are food insecure--more than one million people--which includes nearly 346,000 children. An [interactive map](#) that allows viewers to find out how widespread hunger is in their community is available online.

Legislative Updates

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